

[Transcription begins]

#42 - Monday afternoon - June 19, 1944

Dear Douglas--I have just finished putting last week's entries in my 5 year diary and thot a few of the previous entries as I noted them might bring you a few memories to mull over as you pass long hours on watch.

6-13-41 D sings lead in "Pirates" at Trinity Methodist church

6-15-41 D Goodchild's wedding & reception at Mrs. Jordan's

6-19-41 Very warm--took a load to Coles--there to Buffums to watch some "Square dancing"

6-20-41 Very hot--D left for Camp W for the summer

6-15-42 D goes to Boston with Tommie--war news gloomy

6-18-42 D & Tommie go on short camping trip to So. County

6-23-42 D & " start for N. Hampshire for mountain climbing

6-24-43 Met D at seven A.M. He looks fine--he slept all morning, so I washed blankets

Your #111 arrived today--and life seems to be about the same for you--glad the ocean is behaving itself, that you are keeping well and that the harmonica continues in use! Indeed, I didn't intend to infer that you were on a "training" ship but felt that perhaps you had had such intensive work that your experience might be valuable to a crew which had not been kept so busy--am I forgiven?

D's grass skirt is slightly too long and we will spoil it should we cut it, so are keeping it until she is a little older and then as you say, "beware the tiger!" We can always get Bing playing wildly by simply hanging an overcoat over a dining-room chair & letting him hide behind it.

Saturday we attended Barbara Hard's wedding--a lovely affair in spite of terrific heat. The church was dim and cool and the pale green palms, white flowers and candles made a lovely setting. The ushers were all such nice clean looking young men, all southerners and veterans of the African & Italian campaigns. The high spot of the ceremony came when Mr. Tomlin asked "Who gives this woman, etc." With swelling chest, Senior booms forth, "I, the father!" in tunes [sic] surely heard down in the choir room! Never before have I heard more than a feeble "I do" and generally the heart broken father, overcome at the thot of losing his [indecipherable] merely places the bride's hand in the minister's. I have had three people telephone me today, starting the conversation with "I, the Father!" The reception at Mrs. Jordan's was lovely, the garden and grass so lush and so many good friends gathered together but no young men with the exception of the ushers. Johnny has a full week's vacation, then they have a furnished apartment in Oakland Beach for the next two or three months while he is stationed at Hillsgrove. Afterwards the Fishers, Buffums & Leaches had supper at the Little Red Hen and Mrs. Buffum remarked that the last time we were together there was after your graduation.

Mrs. Brown has just telephoned that they have just received several letters from John who is on his way to his new ship the destroyer USS Wilkes. He has gone by way of

New Caledonia and is at the present writing at New Guinea--I can't quite understand why he can mention names of places but maybe it is because he is enroute [sic] and not actually on location. By the way, Roger was married the day after your birthday, on a Sunday because on the Saturday evening on which they had expected to be married, Janet's nursing class had their formal dance and dinner & they thought it would be so nice to have a chance to go to it for they had had no opportunity because of Roger being sent to Camp.

Friday morning Bill returned to Bourne and now Marilyn is waiting to see whether his transfer has actually gone through. His commanding officer seemed reluctant to have him leave.

Yesterday Dad & I went to Coles for some finishing touches. We painted the porch chairs and washed the kitchen floor & Dad cleaned out some tall trees. Marilyn doesn't care much about Coles but I think we'll hold on to it for awhile.

On the news broadcast this afternoon, Churchill is quoted as saying that the European phase would be over this summer. I hardly dare believe it possible and yet the war news continues excellent from all fronts except China. Yes, our large map is on the kitchen wall & I have pins in Saipan & Tinian¹ and I would buy a solid gold one if I knew your location! But perhaps its just as well that I don't.

Dad is getting quite a kick from his political connections--it is amusing how quickly he has become "Art" to some people who didn't even know he existed a few weeks ago!

I have been tempted to start cutting out clippings about the Pacific front, thinking later on you would find I had saved items which brought memories to you but there are so many that perhaps you'd rather buy a history of the whole affair later in life.

Daryl is just up from her nap and Marilyn has dressed her in a little white blouse and a short bright red flaring suspender skirt and she looks like a little ballet dancer. Lucille Ralph James is here for the afternoon.

You mention in your letter how you looked forward to weekends at home--they were mutually enjoyed, I can assure you. Almost nine months since you were here which simply means, of course, nine months nearer your next leave home.

Let us know what you hear from Tommie--I do wish they would pre-date his j.g. commission, it seems a shame to have it held up thru no fault of his.

Lots of love to you [Transcription ended]

¹ Saipan and Tinian are two of three sister islands making up the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. It was from Tinian that the United States launched its atomic bomb attacks against Japan during the War.